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we call the "hyperphysical," that the latter is as clear and self-evident as the former is mysterious, hazy, bewildering and mystifying.

The consequence of this conception of mathematics need not be traced here in all details, but we feel assured that in the long run it will solve all the modern problems of philosophy and dispose of the troubles which have been caused by pragmatism, Bergsonianism, by the advocates of the principle of relativity, and also by the logisticians.   EDITOR.

LOUIS COUTURAT (1868-1914).

Besides the carnage in battleships and trenches, the great European war carries with it many accidental by-products of disaster not to be overlooked when casting up the grand total of losses the world is suffering. In the early days of last August when the first commotion in the commercial arteries to and from Paris was at its height, a heavy automobile at full speed chanced to run down the carriage in which Louis Couturat was traveling, and his immediate death was the result. Though only forty-six years old he held first rank in France among scientific workers in the philosophy of language, the philosophy of mathematics, and especially in the more modern aspect of logic—for which he agrees with English logicians in preferring the term "logistic," now that this word is but little known in its earlier significations listed in the dictionaries.

M. Couturat was singularly well informed on many questions, but the particular power and quality of his mind lay in a gift for deductive reasoning combined with the most punctilious intellectual honesty that would never countenance a compromise with the truths of reason. All his work is especially remarkable for the clearness of its representation. His style is never sullied by glittering and bizarre phrases intended to attract attention and admiration, but which often seem to cover a multitude of sins in the way of vague ideas and loose reasoning.

Couturat was first known by his painstaking and illuminating exposition of the mathematical infinite (*L'infini mathématique,* 1896) in which he discusses the idea of number and analyzes the concepts of continuity and the infinite, refuting practically all of Renouvier's arguments against the latter. His research in this line familiarized him with all the writings of Leibniz, and his next published work was an edition of more than two hundred fragments

from Leibniz's unpublished manuscripts, some of which proved to be of the greatest philosophical interest. This was followed by a scholarly work on Leibnizian logic (*La logique de Leibniz*, 1901).

It was through their common interest in Leibniz that Couturat became acquainted with the Hon. Bertrand Russell in England, whose *Philosophy of Leibniz* appeared at this time, and their relation continued to be of the friendliest. Couturat added some notes to Cadenat's French translation of Russell's *Principles of Geometry* and introduced his *Principles of Mathematics* to the French public through a series of articles later collected into a book. Readers of *The Monist* will remember his answer to Poincaré's witty sallies against logistics in the issue of October, 1912. In an introduction to this article, M. Couturat's translator, Mr. Philip E. B. Jourdain, summed up the controversy between these two brilliant Frenchmen.

In the meantime, Couturat had published his *Algèbre de la logique*. In a small monograph of less than one hundred pages he presents a concise outline of the material contained in the first two volumes of Schröder's prolix three-volumed treatise. He follows Schröder in making the notion of inclusion the fundamental notion in his calculus in preference to the idea of equality, as the English logicians had done and as Schröder also had done in the beginning, though he made the change later under the influence of C. S. Peirce. Besides brevity Couturat's little work possesses the further advantage of clear-cut precision of argument which makes it practically the most easily intelligible presentation of the subject in any language. It is for this reason that the Open Court Publishing Company only last year issued an English edition of it.

Couturat believed thoroughly in the possibilities and desirability of an international artificial language, and he and Professor Ostwald are the two leading scientific men of whom the Esperanto and Ido movements can boast. In the light of M. Couturat's high character, talents and attainments it can only seem trite and trivial to say that the world has suffered an irreparable loss in his death.   L. G. R.

CURRENT PERIODICALS.

The best produced scientific magazine in Great Britain is *Science Progress in the Twentieth Century: A Quarterly Journal of Scientific Work and Thought*, which is edited by the eminent pathologist Sir Ronald Ross. The first article in the number for April 1915 is "Some Aspects of the Atomic Theory" by Frederick